

1. A method for use in a computer system including a plurality of devices, a shared resource shared by the plurality of devices, and a network that couples the plurality of devices to the shared resource, the method including acts of:

- 5 (a) in response to one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the shared resource and representing itself to the shared resource as a first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network used by the first device to access the shared resource; and
- 10 (b) when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, denying the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource.

- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices is an attempt to login to the shared resource, and wherein the act (b) includes an act of:

when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, denying the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has an assigned world wide name (WWN) and a fabric identifier (fabric ID);
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wherein the method further includes a step of storing the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device in response to an access by the first device to the shared resource; and

- wherein the act (a) is performed in response to an access, that occurs after the access by the first device, by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource and includes acts of:
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examining a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself as being the first device;

comparing a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored fabric ID for the first device; and

determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored fabric ID for the first device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the network employs a protocol wherein the one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has a first identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is independent of a physical configuration of the computer system and a second identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is dependent upon the physical configuration of the computer system;

wherein the method further includes a step of storing the first and second identifiers of the first device in response to an access by the first device to the shared resource; and

wherein the act (a) is performed in response to an access, that occurs after the access by the first device, by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource and includes acts of:

examining a value of the first identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

comparing a value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first device; and

determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the second identifier for the first device.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the shared resource is a storage system;

wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as the first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network that the first device uses to access the storage system; and

wherein the act (b) includes an act of, when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, denying the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by the storage system.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed outside of the storage system.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by a device disposed between the storage system and the network.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has an assigned world wide name (WWN) and a fabric identifier (fabric ID);

wherein the method further includes a step of storing the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device in response to a login by the first device to the shared resource; and

wherein the act (a) is performed in response to a login attempt, that occurs after the login by the first device, by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource and includes acts of:

examining a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself as being the first device;

comparing a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored fabric ID for the first device; and

determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored fabric ID for the first device.

- 10    10.    The method of claim 9, wherein the shared resource is a storage system; wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as the first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network used by the first device to access the storage system; and

15                    wherein the act (b) includes an act of, when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, denying the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

- 20                    11.    The method of claim 10, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by the storage system.

- 25                    12.    The method of claim 10, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by a device disposed between the storage system and the network.

- 30                    13.    The method of claim 2, wherein the network employs a protocol wherein the one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has a first identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is independent of a physical configuration of the computer system and a second identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is dependent upon the physical configuration of the computer system;

wherein the method further includes a step of storing the first and second identifiers of the first device in response to a login by the first device to the shared resource; and

5 wherein the act (a) is performed in response to a login request, that occurs after the login by the first device, by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource and includes acts of:

examining a value of the first identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

10 comparing a value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first device; and

determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the second identifier for the first device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the shared resource is a storage system; 20 wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as the first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network used by the 25 first device to access the storage system; and

wherein the act (b) includes an act of, when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, denying the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the 30 storage system.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by the storage system.

17. The method of claim 3, wherein the shared resource is a storage system;  
wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to the one of the plurality of  
devices attempting to access the storage system and representing itself to the storage  
system as a first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is  
attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the  
network that is different than a first physical connection through the network used by the  
first device to access the storage system; and

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by the storage system.

20. The method of claim 4, wherein the shared resource is a storage system;  
25 wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as a first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network used by the  
30 first device to access the storage system; and

wherein the act (b) includes an act of, when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical

connection, denying the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by the  
5 storage system.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by a device  
disposed between the storage system and the network.

10 23. A method for use in a computer system including a plurality of devices, a storage  
system shared by the plurality of devices, and a network that couples the plurality of  
devices to the storage system, wherein the network employs a protocol wherein each of  
the plurality of devices has a first identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a  
manner that is independent of a physical configuration of the computer system and a  
15 second identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is dependent upon  
the physical configuration of the computer system, the method including acts of:

(a) in response to a login of a first device of the plurality of devices to the  
storage system, storing the first and second identifiers of the first device;

(b) in response to an attempt, subsequent to the act (a), by one of the plurality  
20 of devices to login to the storage system while representing itself to the storage system as  
the first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to  
login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is  
different than a first physical connection through the network used by the first device to  
login to the storage system in the act (a), including acts of;

25 (b1) examining a value of the first identifier presented by the one of the  
plurality of devices to the storage system to determine that the one of the plurality  
of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

(b2) comparing a value of the second identifier presented by the one of  
the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first  
30 device; and

(b3) determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to  
login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network  
that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the second

identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the second identifier for the first device; and

- 5 (c) when it is determined in the act (b3) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, denying the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

- 10 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the first identifier is a world wide name (WWN) and the second identifier is a fabric identifier (fabric ID);

wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to a login of first device to the storage system, storing the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device;

- 15 wherein the act (b1) includes an act of examining a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

wherein the act (b2) includes an act of comparing a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the fabric ID for the first device; and

- 20 wherein the act (b3) includes an act of determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the fabric ID for the first device.

- 25 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by the storage system.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the acts (a) and (b) are performed by a device disposed between the storage system and the network.

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27. A method for use in a computer system including a network and a plurality of devices coupled to the network, the network employing a protocol wherein each of the plurality of devices has a first identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner



that is independent of a physical configuration of the computer system and a second identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is dependent upon the physical configuration of the computer system, the network including at least one network component that assigns a unique value for the second identifier to each of the plurality of devices that is logged into the network, the method including acts of:

(a) in response to one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to the network and representing itself to the network as a first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the network through a port that is different than a first port of the network through which the first device previously logged into the network; and

(b) when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the network through a port that is different than the first port, denying the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the network.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the at least one network component includes at least one switch having a first switch port that forms the first port through which the first device previously logged into the network; and

wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to the network and representing itself to the network as the first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the network through a port different than the first switch port.

29. The method of claim 27, further including an act of preventing at least one of the plurality of devices from transmitting information through the network while representing itself with a value for the second identifier that differs from its value assigned by the at least one network component.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the first identifier is a world wide name (WWN) and the second identifier is a fabric identifier (fabric ID);

wherein the method further includes an act of, in response to the previous login of the first device into the network, storing the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device; and

wherein the act (a) includes acts of;

examining a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices during the attempted login to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

5 comparing a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the fabric ID for the first device; and

determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the network through a port that is different than the first port when the value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the  
10 stored value of the fabric ID for the first device.

31. The method of claim 27, wherein the method further includes an act of, in response to the previous login of the first device into the network, storing the first and second identifiers of the first device; and

15 wherein the act (a) includes acts of;

examining a value of the first identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices during the attempted login to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

20 comparing a value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first device; and

determining that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the network through a port different than the first port when the value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the  
25 stored value of the second identifier for the first device.

32. An apparatus for use in a computer system including a plurality of devices, a shared resource shared by the plurality of devices, and a network that couples the plurality of devices to the shared resource, the apparatus including:

30 an input to be coupled to the network; and

at least one controller, coupled to the input, that is responsive to one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the shared resource while representing itself to the shared resource as a first device, to determine whether the one of the plurality of

devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network used by the first device to access the shared resource, and to deny the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices is an attempt to login to the shared resource, and wherein the at least one controller denies the attempted login when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection.

34. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has an assigned world wide name (WWN) and a fabric identifier (fabric ID); wherein the apparatus further includes a storage device coupled to the at least one controller;

wherein the at least one controller stores the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device in the storage device in response to an access by the first device to the shared resource; and

wherein when the one of the plurality of devices attempts to access the shared resource after the access by the first device, the at least one controller:

examines a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself as being the first device;

compares a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored fabric ID for the first device; and

determines that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the fabric ID

presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored fabric ID for the first device.

35. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the network employs a protocol wherein the one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has a first identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is independent of a physical configuration of the computer system and a second identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is dependent upon the physical configuration of the computer system;  
wherein the apparatus further includes a storage device coupled to the at least one controller;  
wherein the at least one controller stores the first and second identifiers of the first device in the storage device in response to an access by the first device to the shared resource; and  
wherein when the one of the plurality of devices attempts to access the shared resource after the access by the first device, the at least one controller:  
examines a value of the first identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;  
compares a value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first device;  
and  
determines that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the second identifier for the first device.

36. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the shared resource is a storage system;  
wherein in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as a first device, the at least one controller determines whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection; and

wherein when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, the at least one controller denies the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

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37. The apparatus of claim 36, in combination with the storage system, wherein the at least one controller and the input each is disposed within the storage system.

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38. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the at least one controller and the input each is disposed outside of the storage system.

39. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the apparatus includes a filter unit that includes the input and the at least one controller and is adapted to be disposed between the storage system and the network.

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40. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has an assigned world wide name (WWN) and a fabric identifier (fabric ID);

20 wherein the at least one controller stores the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device in response to a login by the first device to the shared resource; and

wherein when the one of the plurality of devices attempts to login to the shared resource after the login by the first device, the at least one controller:

25 examines a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself as being the first device;

compares a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored fabric ID for the first device; and

30 determines that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored fabric ID for the first device.

41. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the shared resource is a storage system;  
wherein in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to  
the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as a first device, the at  
least one controller determines whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting  
5 to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is  
different than the first physical connection; and  
wherein when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is  
attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the  
network that is different than the first physical connection, the at least one controller  
10 denies the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.
42. The apparatus of claim 41, in combination with the storage system, wherein the at  
least one controller and the input each is disposed within the storage system.
- 15 43. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the apparatus includes a filter unit that  
includes the input and the at least one controller and is adapted to be disposed between  
the storage system and the network.
44. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the network employs a protocol wherein the  
20 one of the plurality of devices and the first device each has a first identifier that uniquely  
identifies the device in a manner that is independent of a physical configuration of the  
computer system and a second identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner  
that is dependent upon the physical configuration of the computer system;  
wherein the apparatus further includes a storage device coupled to the at least one  
25 controller;  
wherein the at least one controller stores the first and second identifiers of the  
first device in the storage device in response to a login by the first device to the shared  
resource; and  
wherein when the one of the plurality of devices attempts to login to the shared  
30 resource after the login by the first device, the at least one controller:  
examines a value of the first identifier presented by the one of the  
plurality of devices to the shared resource to determine that the one of the  
plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

compares a value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first device; and

determines that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the second identifier for the first device.

45. The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the shared resource is a storage system; wherein in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as a first device, the at least one controller determines whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection; and

wherein when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, the at least one controller denies the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

46. The apparatus of claim 45, in combination with the storage system, wherein the at least one controller and the input each is disposed within the storage system.

47. The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the apparatus includes a filter unit that includes the input and the at least one controller and is adapted to be disposed between the storage system and the network.

48. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the shared resource is a storage system; wherein in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as a first device, the at least one controller determines whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection; and

wherein when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, the at least one controller denies the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

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49. The apparatus of claim 48, in combination with the storage system, wherein the at least one controller and the input each is disposed within the storage system.

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50. The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the apparatus includes a filter unit that includes the input and the at least one controller and is adapted to be disposed between the storage system and the network.

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51. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the shared resource is a storage system; wherein in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as a first device, the at least one controller determines whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection; and

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wherein when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, the at least one controller denies the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

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52. The apparatus of claim 51, in combination with the storage system, wherein the at least one controller and the input each is disposed within the storage system.

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53. The apparatus of claim 51, wherein the apparatus includes a filter unit that includes the input and the at least one controller and is adapted to be disposed between the storage system and the network.

54. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the at least one controller includes: means, responsive to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to access the shared resource while representing itself to the shared resource as a first device, for



determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network used by the first device to access the shared resource; and

5 means for denying the attempted access by the one of the plurality of devices to the shared resource when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the shared resource through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection.

10 55. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the shared resource is a storage system; wherein in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as a first device, the at least one controller determines whether the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is  
15 different than the first physical connection; and

wherein when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, the at least one controller denies the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

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56. The method of claim 2, wherein the shared resource is a storage system; wherein the act (a) includes an act of, in response to the one of the plurality of devices attempting to login to the storage system and representing itself to the storage system as the first device, determining whether the one of the plurality of devices is  
25 attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection through the network that the first device uses to login to the storage system; and

wherein the act (b) includes an act of, when it is determined in the act (a) that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a  
30 physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection, denying the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system.

57. An apparatus for use in a computer system including a plurality of devices, a storage system shared by the plurality of devices, and a network that couples the plurality of devices to the storage system, wherein the network employs a protocol wherein each of the plurality of devices has a first identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is independent of a physical configuration of the computer system and a second identifier that uniquely identifies the device in a manner that is dependent upon the physical configuration of the computer system, the apparatus comprising:

an input to be coupled to the network;

a storage device; and

at least one controller, coupled to the network and the storage device, that is responsive to a login of a first device of the plurality of devices to the storage system to store the first and second identifiers of the first device in the storage device;

the at least one controller further being responsive to an attempt, after the login by the first device, by one of the plurality of devices to login to the storage system, while representing itself to the storage system as the first device, to;

examine a value of the first identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

compare a value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first device;

determine that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than a first physical connection used by the first device in logging into the storage system when the value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the second identifier for the first device; and

deny the attempted login by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system when it is determined that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to login to the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection.

58. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the first identifier is a world wide name (WWN) and the second identifier is a fabric identifier (fabric ID);

5 wherein the at least one controller stores the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device in the storage device in response to the login by the first device to the storage system; and

wherein when the one of the plurality of devices attempts to login to the storage system after the login by the first device, the at least one controller:

10 examines a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the storage system to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself as being the first device;

compares a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored fabric ID for the first device; and

15 determines that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the storage system through a physical connection through the network that is different than the first physical connection when the value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored fabric ID for the first device.

20 59. The apparatus of claim 57, in combination with the storage system, wherein the at least one controller, the storage device and the input each is disposed within the storage system.

25 60. The apparatus of claim 57, further including a filter unit that includes the input and the at least one controller and is adapted to be disposed between the storage system and the network.

61. The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the at least one controller includes:  
30 means, responsive to the login of a first device of the plurality of devices to the storage system, to store the first and second identifiers of the first device in the storage device;

means, responsive to an attempt, after the login by the first device, by one of the plurality of devices to login to the storage system, while representing itself to the storage

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63. The apparatus of claim 62, in combination with a network switch to form at least a portion of the network, wherein the at least one controller is disposed within the switch.

5 64. The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the at least one controller prevents at least one of the plurality of devices from transmitting information through the network while representing itself with a value for the second identifier that differs from its value assigned by the at least one network component.

10 65. The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the network is a Fibre Channel fabric, wherein the first identifier is a world wide name (WWN) and the second identifier is a fabric identifier (fabric ID);  
wherein the apparatus further includes a storage device coupled to the at least one controller;

15 wherein the at least one controller stores the WWN and the fabric ID of the first device in response to the login of the first device into the network; and

wherein when the one of the plurality of devices attempts to login to the shared resource after the login by the first device, the at least one controller:

20 examines a value of the WWN presented by the one of the plurality of devices during the attempted login to determine that the one of the plurality of devices is representing itself to be the first device;

compares a value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the fabric ID for the first device; and

25 determines that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the network through a port that is different than the first port when the value of the fabric ID presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the fabric ID for the first device.

66. The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the apparatus further includes a storage device coupled to the at least one controller;

30 wherein the at least one controller stores the first and second identifiers of the first device in response to the login of the first device into the network; and

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compares a value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices to the stored value of the second identifier for the first device; and

determines that the one of the plurality of devices is attempting to access the network through a port different than the first port when the value of the second identifier presented by the one of the plurality of devices mismatches the stored value of the second identifier for the first device.